

What is claimed is:

1. A method of detecting biomolecules on a microarray comprising
synthesizing said biomolecules on a microarray;
scanning said microarray with a scanning electron microscope; and
5 detecting said biomolecules on said microarray.
2. A method of claim 1 wherein said biomolecules are nucleotides, oligonucleotides
or polynucleotides.
3. A method of claim 1 wherein said microarray is synthesized by light directed
oligonucleotide synthesis.
- 10 4. A method of claim 1 wherein said method is used to detect errors in said
synthesizing said biomolecules.
5. A method of claim 1 wherein said method is used to detect misalignment of said
plurality of biomolecules on said microarray.
6. A method of claim 5 wherein said misalignment is detected with a resolution of
15 less than about 5 micron.
7. A method of claim 5 wherein said misalignment is detected with a resolution of
less than about 1 micron.
8. A method of claim 1 wherein said microarray is coated with a layer of metals.
9. A method analyzing interactions between a biomolecule target and a biomolecule
20 probe on a microarray, comprising
exposing said biomolecule probe on said microarray to a plurality of
biomolecule targets under a hybridization condition;
scanning said microarray with a scanning electron microscope; and
detecting said biomolecule targets binding to said biomolecule probe on
25 said microarray.
10. A method of claim 9 wherein said microarray is synthesized by light directed
syntheses.
11. A method of claim 9 wherein said biomolecules are nucleotides, oligonucleotides
or polynucleotides.

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12. A method of claim 9 wherein said biomolecule target is labeled with a heavy atom.
13. A method of claim 12 wherein said heavy atom is a colloidal gold.
14. A method of claim 13 wherein said heavy atom is detected using a backscattered
5 electron detector.
15. A method of testing conditions in a microarray manufacturing process comprising
synthesizing biomolecules on a first microarray using a microarray
manufacturing process with a first condition;
inspecting a pattern on said first microarray with a scanning electron
10 microscope;
synthesizing biomolecules on a second microarray using a microarray
manufacturing process with a second condition;
inspecting a pattern on said second microarray with a scanning electron
microscope;
15 comparing said patterns on said first microarray and said second
microarrays; and
selecting a condition for said microarray manufacturing process.
16. A method of claim 15 wherein said biomolecules are nucleotides,
oligonucleotides or polynucleotides.
- 20 17. A method of claim 15 wherein said microarray is synthesized by light directed
oligonucleotide synthesis.